

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
MCT-01 /093 W
-----082612 050118Z /70

R 040918Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5800
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 3132

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, SOPN, ET, TZ
SUBJECT: SOMALI PRESS CONFERENCE ON DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA

SUMMARY. SOMALI CHARGE AT AUGUST 3 PRESS CONFERENCE PLACED BLAME FOR ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI STRIFE ON BOTH IMPERIAL AND PRESENT MILITARY REGIMES OF ETHIOPIA. SOMALIA'S EFFORTS TO FIND PEACE HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY ETHIOPIAN INTRASIGENCE. SOMALIA WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A LIBERATION WAR BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SOMALIA AND THE REGIME IN ADDIS ABABA BUT WOULD DEFEND ITSELF IF ATTACKED. OAU AND UN WERE CALLED UPON TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA TO HALT FURTHER BLOODSHED AND SUFFERING. END SUMMARY.

1. SOMALI CHARGE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 3 ON SHORT NOTICE. CHARGE READ STATEMENT CHARGING ETHIOPIA WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENTS "WITH OMINOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY." CHARGE TOOK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS AFTER READING STATEMENT. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW IF SOMALI MISSIONS ELSEWHERE WERE HOLDING SIMILAR PRESS CONFERENCES.

2. STATEMENT DISCUSSED HISTORY OF ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI STRIFE. IT CITED INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS AND CHAOS IN ETHIOPIA UNDER EPMG. SOMALIA'S EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA HAD BEEN TO NO AVAIL. SOMALIA REJECTED FALSE ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAD

INVADED ETHIOPIA. IT WOULD NOT BE "DRAWN INTO WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A LIBERATION WAR BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SOMALIA AND THE COLONIAL REGIME IN ADDIS ABABA."

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, CHARGE STATED WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT WAS RECEIVING NO MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM SOMALI GOVERNMENT. SHE DID NOT KNOW WHERE LIBERATION MOVEMENT WAS GETTING ITS ARMS. SOMALIA OFFERED ONLY MORAL SUPPORT TO THE WESTERN SOMALIS. IT DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO CONTROL THEM. SHE NOTED THAT 76 ETHIOPIAN TOWNS HAD FALLEN AND MENTIONED JULY 31 MASSACRE OF SOMALIS BY ETHIOPIANS. CHARGE STATED RELATIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND USSR WERE "VERY STRONG." SOVIET EXPERTS WERE NOT LEAVING AS FAR AS SHE KNEW.

4. CHARGE SAID OAU MIGHT CONSIDER THE PROBLEM NEXT WEEK AND IT WAS HOPED THE OAU COMMITTEE OF EIGHT (ESTABLISHED IN 1973 TO HELP RESOLVE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA) WOULD MEET. SOMALIA DID NOT WANT WAR AND WOULD ACCEPT ANY PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

WATERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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